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Applicants: Denise R. Couture et al.
Serial No.: 10/037,287
Confirmation No: 6818
Filed: December 20, 2001

Docket No.: 17703
Group: 3761
Examiner: Reichle, Karin M.
Date: July 26, 2004

For: MECHANICAL FASTENING
SYSTEM HAVING
ORTHOGONALLY ORIENTED
ENGAGEMENT MEMBERS

OFFICIAL

Response to Restriction Requirement With Traverse

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction and election of species requirement mailed June 25, 2004, Applicants respectfully **provisionally elect** the Group II claims to be prosecuted by way of the present application. That is, Applicants elect claims 20-47 for prosecution in the present application. Further, Applicants elect the species defined in Figure 1D as the elected species.

This election is made **with traverse**. Applicants specifically reserve the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's restriction requirement is in error because there is no burden on the Examiner to examine both groups together and the species contained within each group, especially in view of the fact the Examiner has already examined all of the claims in the first Office Action.

In addition, the Examiner states that the subcombination does not require the particulars of the combination, pointing to the flaps, perforations and fasteners. Applicants point out that in Independent Claims 1, 10, 21, 30 no flaps or perforations are claimed. Further, the language regarding the fasteners is similar, with some slight differences, throughout the claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that all of the claims should be examined together and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. Finally, Applicants believe that claims 21-46 read on the elected species of 1D.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920)-721-3892.

Respectfully submitted,

DENISE R. COUTURE ET AL.

By: 

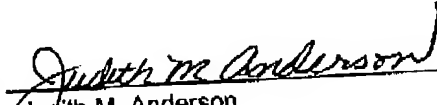
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I, Judith M. Anderson, hereby certify that on July 26, 2004 this document is being facsimile transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:


Judith M. Anderson